



The News Journal/JANET B. CAMPBELL

Barbara Clements operates a steel drum roller at the construction site of a Del. 1 ramp for Lorewood Grove Road last week. A portion of Lorewood Grove Road will be closed Thursday through Aug. 20. The two ramps being built will allow motorists to cross the C&D Canal without paying the \$1 toll.

# Road to close for work on Del. 1 ramps

Inconvenience now will save motorists later

By CHIP GUY  
Staff reporter

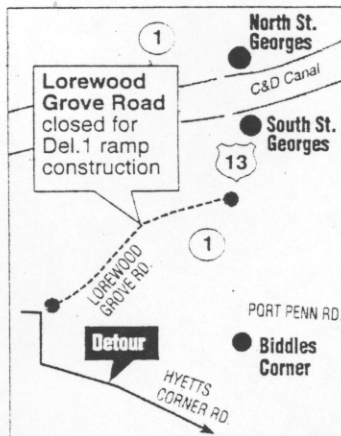
The state highway department will close a two-mile stretch of Lorewood Grove Road for up to two months to finish ramp construction for the new Del. 1 relief route.

## ST. GEORGES

Beginning Thursday, the state Department of Transportation will block off the road from U.S. 13 south near the St. Georges Bridge to Road 412A. The closure will end by Aug. 20.

Motorists who use the road to get to developments on the south side of the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal, including Airmont and Mount Hope, will have to use alternate routes to the west and south.

Jake Vukich of Mount Hope said the closure, while understandable, would mean longer detours at a hectic time of year.



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"I think the biggest concern we have is on Friday afternoons with all the beach traffic," Vukich said. "Now we'll have to go down to Asbury Chase [using Hyetts Corner Road] out to Route 13, and that's going to add a bunch of time to our commutes."

Vukich said the detour would add probably 10 to 15 minutes to his drive to and from his workplace north of Wilmington.

DelDOT spokeswoman



Pat DiSilvestro prepares the dirt for the installation of pipes.

Michele Ackles said the department had to close the road now to complete the construction work in time for Del. 1's opening later this fall.

Though an inconvenience

now, the project will save local motorists time — and money — when the limited-access highway opens.

"The work here does have a direct benefit for the residents," Ackles said.

The two ramps off Lorewood Grove Road will allow local motorists to cross the canal using the new Del. 1 bridge without having to pay the \$1 toll at the Biddles Corner plaza.

Airmont resident Steven Newsom said the closure was fine with him.

"I see the reasons why [it's needed]," Newsom said. "So go ahead, close it, get the construction done. We'll go around."

Ackles said DelDOT had been notifying area residents by sending out fliers.

State highway officials also have discussed the closure with local elected leaders, fire companies and police.

"Everybody seems pretty cool with this one," Ackles said.